

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02268 140255Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /069 W

-----140259Z 121547 /66

R 121427Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4008

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ROME

S E C R E T BEIRUT 2268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, LE, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S IMPRESSIONS OF LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV 3339

1. PRESUME REFERENCE IS TO ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT, STEFANO D'ANDREA, WHO HAS SHOWN UNNECESSARILY FOOLHARDY INTEREST IN SEEING FOR HIMSELF WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE HAS BEEN THERE TWICE DURING PAST THREE MONTHS. HE SEEMS TO BE UNAWARE OF PHYSICAL RISK HE IS RUNNING IN SO DOING, EVEN THOUGH HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE EXPRESSED TO HIM THEIR ASTONISHMENT AT HIS VOYAGES. ALTERNATIVELY, HE WANTS TO BE HEROIC; BELLA FIGURA IS NOT DEAD.

2. MUCH OF WHAT HE SAYS DOES NOT SEEM TO US TOO FAR REMOVED FROM REALITY. ALTHOUGH WE TEND TO CONCENTRATE ON THE NORTHERN PARTITION OF LEBANON BETWEEN MARONITE AND MOSLEM, THERE IS ALSO PARTITION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH THANKS TO ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS AND SHIA. LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS NO AUTHORITY SOUTH OF THE LITANI AND IT IS PALESTINIANS

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WHO ARE IN CONTROL OF THAT AREA, EXCEPT FOR CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES IN QULAYA/MARJAYUN, AIN IBL/RUMAYSH AND ALMA ASH SHAAB AREAS. WHETHER IT IS FATAH OR REJECTIONISTS DEPENDS ON VILLAGE AND AREA. EXTENT OF CONTROL WAS INDICATED, WE BELIEVE, BY EVICTION OF CHRISTIAN FORCES FROM TAIBE.

3. WE HAVE NO INDICATION, HOWEVER, THAT ARAFAT HAS RECEIVED CARTE BLANCE TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. WE DOUBT THIS VERY MUCH. ONLY PARTY IN POSITION TO GIVE SUCH LICENSE IS SYRIA, AND WE DO NOT THINK THEY WANT TROUBLE AT THIS POINT. FURTHERMORE, EVERYTHING WE HAVE HEARD TO DATE MAKES US BELIEVE ARAFAT IS INTERESTED IN KEEPING BORDER AREA QUIET, AT LEAST UNTIL GENEVA CONFERENCE IS HELD AND ITS OUTCOME, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, IS ASCERTAINED.
LANE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PALESTINIANS, AMBASSADORS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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